



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
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MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
May 8, 2013

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA  
Ms. Morgan Devlin  
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA  
Dr. Omur Harmansah  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Mr. Karst Hoozeboom, Chairman  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Pieter N. Roos  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Clark Schoettle

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Senior Architectural Historian  
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Sr. Project Review Coordinator  
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director  
Ms. Virginia Hesse, Principal Historical Architect  
Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM  
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir  
Executive Director, EDC

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman, presiding. Mr. Hoogeboom welcomed new Commissioners: Michael Abbott, Morgan Devlin, Mohamad Farzan, Omur Harmansah, and Clark Schoettle and congratulated them on their appointments. Commissioners and staff present introduced themselves.

### 2. Minutes of February 13, 2013

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2013.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) Project Review Coordinator Jeff Emidy introduced a new member of the RIHPHC staff: Michaela Jergensen, Project Reviewer for RI Department of Transportation projects. Ms. Jergensen has a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont and a Bachelor's degree in Historic Preservation and Architectural History from Roger Williams University. She has prepared National Register nominations, worked as a consultant to the Maine Department of Transportation, and for the past three years performed project review for the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

b) Special Projects Coordinator Sarah Zurier reported on the April 27 statewide historic preservation conference in West Warwick. The conference, titled "Preservation Works," attracted an audience of nearly 500, and included 12 sessions and workshops, 11 tours, and 67 speakers. Keynote speaker Jonathan Prude, Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Emory University, shared his research on the changes that industrialization brought to New England's agricultural hinterlands in the 19th century. Afterwards, everybody fanned out to workshops to learn about historic libraries, New Deal-era art projects, and prehistoric archaeology of Rhode Island. Tour groups boarded buses, climbed on bicycles, and took off on foot to explore the Pawtuxet River Valley from its cranberry bogs and forests to its mills and mill villages. The closing reception was hosted by Centreville Bank on Arctic's Main Street.

c) RIHPHC staff are monitoring three legislative proposals to reactivate the historic preservation investment tax credit are pending in the General Assembly.

d) RIHPHC staff are continuing to work with RIDOT and the Office of the Attorney General to acquire and preserve the Salt Pond Archaeological Preserve, a 900 year old Indian village on the shore of Point Judith Pond.

e) Dr. Greenwood reported on the results of phase two investigations at the Nipsachuck Indian Battlefield in North Smithfield. The phase two study focused on the 1676 battle and identified the battlefield area and recovered battlefield artifacts. On July 2, 1676, Connecticut soldiers and their Indian allies attacked an encampment of approximately 170 Narragansetts, many of whom were killed and forty were taken prisoner. Associated Native American village or settlement areas have not been identified but

are predicted to exist in the Nipsachuck area. The project has been funded by the American Battlefield Protection program of the National Park Service.

f) Dr. Greenwood reported that the Preservation Society of Newport County has filed an application for RIHPHC approval of a project to construct a Welcome Center on the grounds of the Breakers. RIHPHC holds a historic preservation easement for the Breakers that includes review and approval for any new development on the site. Dr. Greenwood presented a short introduction to the project, and more detailed information was distributed to Commissioners on CD disks. The Commission will hold a Special Meeting on June 6, 2013 at 2:30 PM to tour the Breakers site and learn more about the project plans.

g) The National Park Service has informed RIHPHC that the state will receive approximately \$3 million in historic preservation grants to preserve and/or rehabilitate historic properties and sites impacted by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. These federal funds were appropriated by the U. S. Congress for Hurricane relief assistance. The grants will be administered by RIHPHC in accordance with regulations of the National Park Service. Only projects that are directly related to damage from Hurricane Sandy are eligible for grant assistance. Properties eligible for grant assistance must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or must meet the criteria for listing on the National Register. RIHPHC will draft criteria and procedures for the grant program and report to the Commission. Final project selection will be made by vote of the Commission.

f) Nominations for annual Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation are due on May 10 and Commissioners are urged to suggest outstanding projects. The Rhody Award applications were published at the beginning of April and distributed during the Preservation Conference.

#### 4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Approval: First Baptist Church of Tiverton, 7 Old Stone Church Road, Tiverton

Since this was the first meeting for some Commissioners, Dr. Greenwood presented information about the National Register nomination process and criteria.

RIHPHC Architectural Historian Joanna Doherty presented information about the property. The First Baptist Church property in Tiverton, Rhode Island, also known as the Old Stone Church, encompasses approximately 38 acres of gently sloping land at the intersection of Old Stone Church Road and Stone Church Road in a rural residential part of Tiverton.

The property includes a church, parsonage, parish house and cemetery, all clustered by the road. The remainder of the property, some of which was historically used as farmland for the church's minister, is mostly wooded. The 1841 Greek Revival-style Church is set back from Old Stone Church Road. West of the Church is the 1884-1885 Parsonage, a side-gable residence with a measure of Italianate trim, and a late-19th-century, wood-frame carriage shed. The Old Stone Church Cemetery, with grave markers dating primarily from the mid-19th century, is located immediately to the north of the Church. The ca. 1879 Parish House – a simple, wood-frame, one-and-a-half-story, front-gable building – is located across the street and a short distance to the south, on a triangular lot on the east side of Old Stone Church Road. Dry-laid stone walls are located along three sides of the cemetery, as well as within the interior of the property.

The First Baptist Church in Tiverton is significant at the local level in the area of religion, for its capacity to illustrate the history and evolution of the Baptist denomination in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Home to one of the oldest Baptist congregations in the country, the church was built during a period of rapid expansion for the denomination and also illustrates the growth of Baptist subsets in the region in the mid-19th century. The First Baptist Church also reflects the historical development of the town of Tiverton and the village of Adamsville, and is therefore significant in the area of community planning and development. In the 1680s, when the congregation was established, present-day Tiverton's location on the outskirts of the Plymouth Colony made it a relatively tolerant place for Baptists. By the mid-19th century, when the current church was built, the village of Adamsville – which includes parts of Tiverton, Little Compton and Westport, Massachusetts – was well-established, and the church was an important community institution. In addition, the First Baptist Church property, with its collection of simple buildings that exhibit a vernacular interpretation of architectural styles, is significant in the area of architecture. The church building itself, with its simple form and restrained Greek-Revival styling, is a little-altered example of a particular class of structures in mid-19th century Rhode Island – the rural church, nearly all of which follow the same form and design.

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schoettle, seconded by Mr. Roos, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

5. Other business

There was no other business.

7. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday June 12, 2013 at 9:30 AM.

Special Meeting: Thursday June 6, 2013 at 2:30 PM at The Breakers, Newport.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director